



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
March 1, 2010**

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**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 200
AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES TO CERTAIN
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAMS.**

Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee: although I am unable to appear before you this morning, I thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 200, which contains technical, conforming and clarifying amendments to various statutes.

Section 1 of the bill contains a technical amendment to §7-536(g) that clarifies the date by which the Comptroller draws an order on the Treasurer for payments under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP). The Auditors of Public Accounts raised an issue concerning the current statute, which prompted the request for this amendment.

The amendments to §12-170d and §12-170f in Sections 2 and 3 of the bill will eliminate the requirement that OPM provide municipal officials with a three-part application form for the elderly and totally disabled renters' grant program. Several years ago, OPM created a computerized application system for purposes of calculating renters' grants. Under this system, OPM provides municipal officials with a software program that automatically and correctly calculates grant amounts. This computerized system allows renters to receive certifications of the actual amounts of their entitlements as soon as they complete the application process. State and municipal officials benefit from the use of this system, which has nearly eliminated the need for corrections under this program. Additionally, use of this system has allowed the state to save approximately \$14,000 in printing costs per year.

Section 4 of the bill corrects an erroneous reference to §12-129d in the statute governing claimant appeals of various property tax relief programs.

The intent of each section of Senate Bill 200 is to clarify various statutes and to more accurately reflect current practice with respect to the administration of the elderly and totally disabled renters' grant program.

The provisions of this bill are identical to those in last year's File No. 594 and Sections 3 to 6 of 2008's File No. 388. I respectfully request that you issue a joint favorable report concerning Senate Bill 200, as you did with respect to similar bills in the last years.